

CLAIMS:

- 1) In the most preferred embodiment of the invention, a mechanized camera and/or sensor lift platform for flying craft that extends through open concealment doors during flight to collect images, sounds and data or any combination thereof. Upon completion of camera and/or sensor activities, the lift platform is retracted inside the aircraft and the concealment doors are closed such that the camera and/or sensor is hidden from general view and the original flying craft speed, maneuverability and aerodynamic characteristics are not altered.
- 2) A method as in claim 1 wherein a sensor device and/or a camera is extended out of and retracted into a flying craft or platform by means of an electric driven platform.
- 3) A method whereby a sensor device and/or a camera is extended out of and retracted into a flying craft or platform by means of a hydraulic driven platform.
- 4) A method whereby a sensor device and/or a camera is extended out of and retracted into a flying craft or platform by means of a spring loaded driven platform.

- 5) A method whereby a sensor device and/or a camera is extended out of and retracted into a flying craft or platform by means of a magnetically driven platform.
- 6) A method whereby a sensor device and/or a camera is extended out of and retracted into a flying craft or platform by means of a pneumatically driven platform.
- 7) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the mechanized lift platform is extended and retracted by means of a linear motion drive system.
- 8) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the mechanized lift platform is extended and retracted by means of a linear motion screw.
- 9) A method as in claim 6 wherein the lift platform drive mechanism contains a clutch and brake apparatus to control depth and speed of deployment of the platform.
- 10) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the mechanized lift platform is the sensor/camera housing proper.

- 11) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the lift platform's drive mechanism is mechanically linked to the concealment doors, opening and closing the doors in tandem with the lift platform deployment or retraction.
- 12) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the concealment doors may be manually or remotely opened.
- 13) A method as in claims 1 through 5 wherein the lift platform inverts prior to and/or during deployment.
- 14) A method of installing the lift platform such that the flying craft cabin space available is not affected by the installation.